1 2 3 4 5 6 7 **BEFORE THE** 8 DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY OF THE 9 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 In the Matter of the Accusation NO. 04-94-38147 12 Against: 13 JOSE ALBERTO LILLO, M.D. DEFAULT DECISION 2020 N. Broadway, Suite 105 14 Santa Ana, CA 92705 [Gov. Code §11520] 15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A36763, 16 Respondent. 17 18 FINDINGS OF FACT 19 On or about March 25, 1996, Complainant Ron Joseph, 20 21 in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Medical 22 Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California ("Board"), filed Accusation No. 04-94-38147 against 23 Jose Alberto Lillo, M.D. ("respondent"). 24 2. On or about June 8, 1981, the Board issued 25 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A36763 to respondent. 26 At all times relevant herein, said license was in full force and 27

effect. Respondent's license expired on September 30, 1994, and has not been renewed.

- 3. California Business and Professions Code section 2227 provides, in pertinent part, that the Division of Medical Quality of the Board ("Division") may revoke, suspend for a period not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any licensee who has been found guilty under the Medical Practice Act.
- 4. California Business and Professions Code section 2234 provides, in pertinent part, that unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (b) Gross negligence
  - (c) Repeated negligent acts
  - (d) Incompetence.

- 5. California Business and Professions Code section118 provides, in pertinent part:
  - "(b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the license on any such ground."

"(b) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if he files a notice of defense, and any such notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file such notice shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing. ..."

- 7. California Government Code section 11520 provides, in pertinent part:
  - "(a) If the respondent fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent; ..."
- 8. On or about March 25, 1996, Pamela Mosher, an employee of the Board, sent by regular mail a copy of the Accusation packet (No. 04-94-38147) (Exhibit 1), which included the Accusation, a Statement to Respondent, Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7, the Notice of Defense form (in duplicate), and a Request for Discovery, to the address set forth in the Accusation, 2020 N. Broadway, Suite 105, Santa Ana, California 92705, and to respondent's address of record, 23161 Lake Center Drive 200, Lake Forrest, California 92630. On or about April 4, 1996, the aforementioned documents mailed to the Santa Ana address were returned to the Board by the U.S.

Postal Service, marked "Return to Sender - Undeliverable as Addressed Forwarding Order Expired." (Exhibit 2.) The documents mailed to the Lake Forrest address were not returned. On April 25, 1996, the Board attempted serving respondent by certified mail with a copy of the Accusation packet both at the address set forth in the Accusation and at the address of record. The aforementioned documents, mailed by certified mail, were returned to the Board by the U.S. Postal Service, on May 6, 1996 and May 17, 1996, marked "Return to Sender - Undeliverable As Addressed Forwarding Order Expired" and "Return to Sender-Moved-Left No Address", respectively. (Exhibit 3.) The above-described service was effective as a matter of law pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).

- 9. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him of the Accusation and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 04-94-38147.
- 10. The Division is authorized to revoke respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate pursuant to the provisions of the California Business and Professions Code sections 2227 and 2234.
- 11. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, and based on the evidence before it, the Division finds that the allegations, and each of them, contained in the Accusation No. 04-94-38147 are true.

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DETERMINATION OF ISSUES 1. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to sections 2227 and 2234 of the California Business and Professions Code by reason of Finding of Facts numbers 1 through 11, above. DECISION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A36763, heretofore issued to respondent Jose Lillo, M.D., is hereby revoked. 

An effective date of <u>September 16</u>,  $19\underline{96}$ , has been assigned to this Order.

Pursuant to California Government Code section 11520, subdivision (b), respondent is entitled to make any showing by way of mitigation; however, such showing must be made in writing to the Medical Board of California, 1426 Howe Avenue, Suite 54, Sacramento, CA 95825-3236, prior to the effective date of this decision.

Made this 14th day of August, 1996.

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IRA LUBELL, M.D., Chair, Panel A
FOR THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY OF THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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# EXHIBIT 1

2 3 4 5	DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Attorney General of the State of California SANFORD H. FELDMAN, Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 110 West A Street, Suite 1100 Post Office Box 85266 San Diego, California 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2079
6	Attorneys for Complainant
7 8 9	BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation ) Case No. 04-94-38147 Against:
12	JOSE LILLO, M.D. ) ACCUSATION
13	2020 N. Broadway, Suite 105 ) Santa Ana, California 92705 )
14 15	Physician's and Surgeon's ) Certificate No. A36763, )
16	Respondent. )
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18	The Complainant alleges:
19	<u>PARTIES</u>
20	1. Complainant, Ron Joseph, is the Executive Director
21	of the Medical Board of California (hereinafter the "Board") and
22	brings this accusation solely in his official capacity.
23	2. On or about June 8, 1981, Physician's and
24	Surgeon's Certificate No. A36763 was issued by the Board to Jose
25	Lillo, M.D. (hereinafter "respondent"), and at all times relevant
26	to the charges brought herein, this license has been in full
27	force and effect. Said license expired on September 30, 1994.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This accusation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter the "Division"), under the authority of the following sections of the California Business and Professions Code (hereinafter "Code"):
  - A. Section 2227 of the Code provides that the Division may revoke, suspend for a period not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any licensee who has been found quilty under the Medical Practice Act.
  - B. Section 2234 of the Code provides that the Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
    - (b) Gross negligence;
    - (c) Repeated negligence; and,
    - (d) Incompetence.
- 4. Section 125.3 of the Business and Professions Code provides that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
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#### **CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE**

(Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligence, Incompetence)

- 5. Respondent Jose Lillo, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227, 2234, 2234(b), 2234(c), and 2234(d) of the Business and Professions Code in that he was grossly negligent, repeatedly negligent, and incompetent in his care and treatment of patient A.A. The facts are as follows:
  - A. On or about the beginning of January 1990, patient A.A. complained of mild vaginal spotting to respondent. She was approximately 32 weeks pregnant. Respondent did not give any specific advice. On or about January 20, 1990, patient A.A. informed respondent she had heavier bleeding. He instructed her to go home and rest.
  - B. On or about January 22, 1990, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the husband of patient A.A. called respondent and told him that the bleeding had increased dramatically, requiring patient A.A. to change her heavy duty sanitary napkin at least one time per hour. Respondent did not see patient A.A., he did not admit her into the hospital, and he did not provide her with further instructions.
  - C. On or about January 23, 1990, patient A.A. awoke surrounded by a pool of blood in her bed. Respondent was immediately notified by patient A.A.'s husband. Respondent advised him to admit the patient to Western Medical Center (which is approximately 45 minutes from their home). The husband informed respondent that they lived

approximately 45 minutes from Western Medical Center and his wife would die before they arrived there. The husband called the paramedics, who then took patient A.A. to Whittier Hospital Medical Center which is approximately eight blocks from her home.

- D. Patient A.A. was admitted and the baby (a healthy male) was taken by Cesarean section. Patient A.A. suffered a massive blood loss and underwent several operations. She was discharged from Whittier Hospital Medical Center on or about April 18, 1990, with the final diagnosis of: (partial) blindness; peripheral neuropathy and inability to ambulate; renal insufficiency; reactive thrombocytosis; seizures; anemia; status post fever; status post ards; and malnutrition followed by status post cardiac arrest times three and postpartum DIC.
- E. Respondent failed to admit patient A.A. to a hospital for evaluation of her bleeding, for continuous fetal monitoring, for a biophysical profile including a sonogram for possible delivery of the baby, and/or for bed rest. In addition, respondent failed to perform an ultrasound.

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#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, the complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, that the Division issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A36763, heretofore issued to respondent Jose Lillo, M.D.;
- 2. Ordering respondent to pay the Board the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case;
- 3. Taking such other and further action as the Division deems necessary and proper.

DATED: March 26, 1996

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Ron Joseph

Executive Director

Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant